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VIDEOCIPHER Division
General Instrument Corporation
3013 Science Park Road
San Diego, CA 92121
619/457-2882
FAX 619/452-9945

Contact:

Cheri Hart
VideoCipher Division
General Instrument Corp
(619) 457-2882

Mike Walker
Jansen Associates Inc.
(714) 250-4100

GENERAL INSTRUMENT WARNS SATELLITE TV CONSUMERS ABOUT VIDEOCIPHER• II PIRATE ACTIVITIES

ANAHEIM, Calif., Dec. 3, 1986 -- General Instrument's VideoCipher Division today cautioned consumers about claims regarding so-called pirate VideoCipher• II satellite TV descramblers.

"Consumers are being victimized right now by unscrupulous people and organizations selling purported 'fixes' to VideoCipher II descramblers which are claimed to break the security of our VideoCipher II system," said J. Lawrence Dunham, executive vice president and general manager of the division.

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"Our investigation of these products shows many are outright frauds. In all other cases, attacks we have seen have been anticipated and can be controlled through multiple levels of security measures available to render these so-called pirate descramblers useless."

Dunham told a press conference at the opening day of the Western Cable Show here that General Instrument is speaking out to educate and warn consumers about fraudulent descrambler products.

"Some consumers are spending up to $1,000 to have their descramblers modified to receive programming they have not paid for," Dunham said. "They are going to be hurt when they discover the systems won't work.

"We also want to remind buyers and sellers of modified VideoCipher II descramblers that pirating of scrambled satellite television programming is a violation of federal and state law."

Specifically, the Cable Communications Policy Act, passed by Congress in 1984, states that manufacturers, distributors, importers and retailers of products designed to receive encrypted signals without authorization are violating a law that upon conviction can carry a fine of as much as $50,000 and up to two years in jail. Individual recipients of these encrypted signals without authorization are also violating federal law and can be fined up to $1,000 and jailed for up to six months upon conviction.

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General Instrument's VideoCipher II descrambler is the defacto industry standard used by cable television programmers to scramble their broadcasts and used by cable television operators and satellite dish owners to descramble programming they are authorized to receive.

General Instrument is the industry leader in cable TV electronics, coaxial cable and satellite TV encryption systems, and specializes in semiconductors and other electronic systems for government and industry. The Company's primary strategies are directed toward communications systems. The common stock is listed on the New York, Midwest, Pacific and London stock exchanges.

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